

Message Text

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62/67

ACTION ARA-10

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R 062155Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8977

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 0040

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - REFERENCE LINE STATE 000683 VICE 00031
AND ACTION.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TBIO, PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH IN COSTA RICA

REF: STATE 000683

1. EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED INFORMATION SUBMITTED REFTEL AND DECIDED TO SEEK COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT CLEARANCE FOR PROPOSED U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECT BY MEANS OF A NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. EXPLAINING THE PROPOSED PROGRAM WILL REQUIRE A LONG NOTE, WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH. THUS, THE EMBASSY IS NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT THAT A REPLY WILL BE RECEIVED FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN TIME TO MEET THE PROPOSED JANUARY 11 TO 25 DATES FOR THE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

2. IF CLEARANCE IS RECEIVED FROM THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT, THE EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACQUIESCE IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT PROVIDED SUITABLE PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN TO AVOID ADVERSE PUBLICITY. ARMY RESEARCH TEAM SHOULD ARRIVE VIA REGULARLY SCHEDULED AIRLINE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, AND SHOULD AVOID WEARING MILITARY UNIFORMS AT ANY TIME DURING THEIR STAY IN COSTA RICA. RESEARCH TEAM SHOULD AVOID ANY VISIT TO OR CONTACT WITH COSTA RICAN UNIVERSITY DURING THE PROJECT OR SUBSEQUENTLY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN INFORMAL CONTACT WITH DR. VARGAS BY TELEPHONE OR OFF-THE-CAMPUS ARRANGEMENTS APPROVED BY THE EMBASSY.

3. EMBASSY NOTES STATEMENT IN REFTEL THAT "IT IS
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IMPORTANT TO ASCERTAIN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE REPELLENT

IMPREGNATED JACKETS UNDER TROPICAL CONDITIONS OF HIGH
TEMPERATURE AND HIGH HUMIDITY AS NORMALLY PROVIDED IN
CENTRAL AMERICA." REFTTEL ALSO STATES THAT THE TESTS
WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN THE SAN JOSE AREA. THE EMBASSY
WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE TROPICAL CONDITIONS OF HIGH
TEMPERATURE AND HIGH HUMIDITY DO NOT EXIST IN THE
SAN JOSE AREA, WHICH IS AT AN ALTITUDE OF 3800 FEET
AND HAS MODERATE TEMPERATURES.
OGG

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